

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-11 EA-07 /092 W

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R 120820Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2771

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1950

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, PK

SUBJ: CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER

REF: ANKARA 1649

1. PAKISTAN COUNSELOR MATIN CALLED ON EMBOFF MARCH 11 TO CONVEY
WHAT HE SAID WAS HIS OWN OPINION REGARDING THE NEED FOR EARLY
PROGRESS ON THE CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER (REFTEL).

2. MATIN SAID THAT THE PRESENT PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT, WHEN IT FACES
ELECTIONS EARLY NEXT YEAR, IS LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER EMBARRASSING
CRITICISM FROM THE OPPOSITION BECAUSE IT HAS SO FAR FAILED TO MAKE
GOOD ON ITS 1971 CAMPAIGN PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW FROM CENTO.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TWO ALTERNATIVES: (1) TO WITH-
DRAW FROM CENTO; OR (2) TO GET A FRESH COMMITMENT FROM ITS CENTO
PARTNERS WITH WHICH IT COULD JUSTIFY CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP IN THE
ORGANIZATION. IF THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WERE TO CHOOSE
THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE, HE PREDICTED, IT WOULD NEED TO HAVE A
COMPLETED POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER IN HAND IN ABOUT THREE
MONTHS, I.E., WELL BEFORE THE START OF THE CAMPAIGN. HE
FURTHER SAID THAT IT WOULD BE "VITAL" TO PAKISTAN THAT THIS PAPER
DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH THE PROBLEM OF "WARS BY PROXY".

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3. ASIDE FROM THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM POSED BY CENTO
MEMBERSHIP, MATIN OBSERVED, THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WAS
ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS TO LEAVE CENTO AND TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ISLAMABAD'S COMMENTS.
MACOMBER

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NNN

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